

**ANTH 120: World Prehistory**  
University of Tennessee – Knoxville  
Spring 2022  
(3 Credits)

**Instructor Information**

Katherine Parker ([kparke38@vols.utk.edu](mailto:kparke38@vols.utk.edu))  
Office Hours: In-person (422 Strong Hall) and via Zoom  
T/TH 3:30 – 4:30 or by appointment

**Meeting Times and Location**

Strong Hall Room 106  
Tuesday and Thursday 6:10 pm – 7:25 pm  
January 24<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>

**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to methods and techniques used to identify and date archaeological cultures, reconstruct past lifeways and describe cultural evolution. Throughout the course, we will broadly review the archaeological understanding of the past in regions such as Africa, western Europe, southwest Asia, and the Americas from earliest dated human cultures to rise of complex civilizations. This course is a prerequisite to the Anthropology major and upper-division archaeology coursework, and it also meets either the Cultures and Civilizations (CC) or Social Sciences (SS) general education requirement for all majors.

**Course Objectives**

The objective of this course is to provide you with a broad scope of archaeological history, method, and research applications. By the end of the semester, you should have new knowledge about:

- the chronology of archaeological cultures that reflect the human past
- the interpretation of technology, subsistence, and cultural complexity over the course of humanity's time on earth
- the wide methodological applications employed in doing archaeology
- the particular applications of archaeological research within the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee
- the legal and ethical considerations involved in archaeological practice

A final goal is to show you that understanding the human past, as revealed by the archaeological record, is not only relevant to the modern world, but has particular, unequally experienced social and political implications on contemporary groups. This course is intended to encourage you to consider your own cultural heritage and its meaning, as well as the bearing this heritage has at the interface with other cultural experiences.

**Textbook**

Bahn, Paul (editor). 2017 *Archaeology: The Essential Guide to our Human Past*. Smithsonian Books, Washington, DC.

The course textbook is available at the UTK bookstore and online at most textbook retailers, though it will likely be available at a reduced cost outside of the VolShop. The Undergraduate Anthropology Association (UAA) also has copies of this textbook available for free checkout in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor breakout study space in Strong Hall. If you have any trouble accessing the textbook, either due to availability or cost restrictions, please contact me directly and I will be happy to make my copy accessible.

### Course Communications:

Announcements, assignments, and grades will be communicated via Canvas. If you have questions or encounter difficulties, I can be reached through email at [kparke38@vols.utk.edu](mailto:kparke38@vols.utk.edu). I will try to respond to all emails within 48 hours of receipt. Should you have any difficulty with the course material or should a personal issue come up, please reach out to me via email or during office hours. We are all human beings who are still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, and flexibility is our greatest asset in overcoming the challenges we face as a result. I'm happy to work with you to make accommodations as needed, especially if they're brought to my attention prior to deadlines instead of after.

### Organization and Format

Most of our weekly meetings will be split between lectures and hands-on exercises. The success of this class will depend on our mutual commitment to thoughtful, informed discussion; collaborative critical and creative thinking; and careful, diligent work at in and outside of the classroom. Therefore, please make sure that you complete the assigned readings before each class and come prepared to engage with the material and your fellow classmates during class.

### Grading and Assessment

Exams (3 x 100 points each)	300 points
Final Exam (1 x 250 points)	250 points
In-Class Activities (10 x 25 points each)	250 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>800 points</b>

All graded content should be submitted via the designated Assignment page on Canvas on the day that it is due. Late work submitted without prior communication will have 5 points deducted for each day that it is late. If you need additional accommodations or arrangements to complete your assigned work, please reach out to me via email or during office hours. All late work that is due to self-isolation or quarantining for COVID-19 will automatically be accommodated, but communication with me and the university is required in advance (see COVID-19 Policies section below for more information).

Grades will be assessed via the following scale:

A	744 – 800 points (93 – 100%)	C+	608 – 639 points (76 – 79%)
A-	720 – 743 points (90 – 92%)	C	584 – 607 points (73 – 75%)
B+	688 – 719 points (86 – 89%)	C-	560 – 583 points (70 – 72%)
B	664 – 687 points (83 – 85 %)	D	480 – 559 points (60 – 69%)
B-	640 – 663 points (80 – 82%)	F	479 points and below (Below 60%)

If you find that you have several overdue assignments toward the end of the semester that you would like additional time beyond the end of the semester to complete, please reach out to discuss the option of taking an Incomplete in the course. A grade of “Incomplete” does not affect your GPA and will provide you with 12 additional months to complete any outstanding graded work that you need to complete the course—this option is a great, stigma-free way to give you more

flexibility and avoid grade penalties if you are undergoing extenuating stress or an external conflict. Taking an Incomplete would involve us working together to lay out a timeline for to make up missing work within the 12-month period that is flexible around your needs. You do not receive any penalties for late work completed during this 12-month allowance, meaning you could still receive an A grade if you meet the points threshold above, but any work that is still incomplete by the end of the period will receive an F grade.

### **Attendance**

Class will meet in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays unless previous arrangements have been made with me to attend via Zoom. Attendance for this course is not mandatory; however, most weeks will involve in-person activities that count toward your overall grade (see the section on “In-Class Activities” below). Lecture materials will be made available each week on Canvas, and I will be able to provide make-up information/alternatives to any missed in-class activities.

**NOTE: If you are self-isolating or quarantining, DO NOT COME TO CLASS until you have been cleared to do so by your health care provider, the contact tracing team, or the Knox County Health Department.**

### **In-Class Activities**

For 10 weeks out of the semester, there will be a hands-on, in-class activity to be completed for credit during the Thursday section of class. These activities are designed to be fun and interactive, and to engage you in the kinds of critical thinking skills that are important for archaeologists to develop. Each activity will be accompanied by a brief written assignment or worksheet that can be completed during the activity or outside of class. These written assignments will be available to complete over the weekend and are due by the start of Tuesday’s class on the following week. Paper copies of the assignment will be made available in class, but you may submit either the paper copy in class on Tuesday or a digital version of your work on Canvas by 6 pm. Each assignment is worth 25 points, with the total for all ten assignments equaling 250 points or roughly 31 percent of your final grade.

For students who have made arrangements to attend the class virtually or who need to make up the activity at a later date, an alternate, parallel activity may be made available to you on Canvas. Please let me know in advance if you need to make accommodations or adjustments to your ability to complete these assignments. **NOTE: If you are feeling unwell or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class for the sake of completing the activity!** These activities can be easily made up or completed virtually and I am happy to create a flexible completion deadline if needed. **Please** be considerate of your own health and the health of those in this class.

### **Exams**

The course will consist of regular evaluations of the course material, for a total of **three (3) exams**. These exams will focus on the materials covered over each lecture following the previous exam unit and are not cumulative. The format of the exams will consist of primarily multiple-choice questions followed by 3-5 short response essay questions. Each exam comprises 100 points or roughly 12.5 percent of your final grade, for a total of 38 percent of your final grade for all three exams.

All three exams will be open note, including access to both digital or handwritten notes but **excluding the use of internet browsers, shared notes among other students, and any other form of communication with others during the exam**. I would strongly advise that each of you still study prior to each exam, as the exams are formatted to fit closely within an allotted time constraint that will leave little room to do exhaustive reviews of your notes. The notes work best when used as reference to double check tricky questions, not as a resource that you have to search through for every single answer. Even with access to the notes and the PowerPoint lectures, past students who do not prepare in advance have not scored well on these exams. If you pay attention in class and prepare ahead of the exams, however, you should find these exams to be relatively easy.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam will take place in person on **Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:15 – 8:30 pm**, one week after the conclusion of our last class. The final exam will be comprised of two parts:

- **Part I**, which will be similar to previous multiple-choice exams and will cover the course material after Exam 3 (roughly the last three weeks of the semester)
- **Part II**, which will be cumulative and consist of a series of short-answer and extended essay responses on material covered throughout the semester

Part I of the final exam will be worth 100 points and Part II will be worth 150 points, for a total of 250 points or roughly 31 percent of your overall grade. As with all other exams, **you will be able to use your notes** but will **not** be able to use internet browsers, shared notes among other students, or any other form of communication with others during the exam. Responses to the questions in Part II must not be plagiarized from the lecture material and should be reworked into your own words—**any plagiarized material, be it from the course content or your peers, will receive a grade of zero.**

### Extra Credit

There are several opportunities available for extra credit throughout this course that are designed to engage you with archaeological materials and discourse beyond the immediate scope of this course. Potential extra credit opportunities include volunteering time in one of the archaeology labs, attending virtual seminars on archaeological topics, and reviewing and critiquing archaeological media. A list of specific volunteer opportunities, along with pertinent contact information, will be made available via Canvas, and any supplemental extra credit materials will be submitted via Canvas as well. A **maximum of 50 extra credit points** may be completed.

### University COVID-19 Policies

If you need to be tested for COVID-19 because you are feeling sick or have been in close contact with someone who has been exposed, the Student Health Center provides diagnostic testing for students. If you get tested for COVID-19, you should begin self-isolating (**read: do NOT attend class in person**) and follow university policies explained below.

#### Self-Isolation Policy

If you begin to feel sick or you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, the first step is to begin self-isolating immediately and fill out the university's [self-isolation form](#). The contact tracing team will follow up with you—generally within 24 hours, but the response time can vary depending on caseloads. You can read more about the university's self-isolation policy and procedures [here](#).

#### In-Person Safety Policies

Students who attend class in-person should familiarize themselves with university policies for safe in-person learning and engagement, which can be found [here](#). Instructors have the right to ask those who are not complying with these requirements to leave class in the interest of everyone's health and safety. In the event that a student refuses to comply with these requirements, the instructor has the right to cancel class.

Any individual can choose to wear a mask anywhere on campus, even when it is not required. According to public health authorities, in areas where there is substantial or high COVID transmission, wearing masks in indoor spaces can help reduce transmission of the virus and keep communities healthy. The university strongly recommends that all members of the campus community be vaccinated for their own protection, to prevent disruption to the semester, and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For the most current information on the status of mask requirements, please check the COVID-19 website at <https://www.utk.edu/coronavirus/>. Vaccination information and appointment signups are available at <https://www.tiny.utk.edu/vaccine/>. The Student Health Center medical staff is available to students to answer questions or discuss concerns about vaccines, and the center provides vaccines free of charge for anyone 18 years or older who would like one.

If you have a health concern, you can call the Student Health Center nurse triage line at 865-974-5080. The university has a nurse available to speak to students by phone 24 hours a day. After-hours care has been arranged for eligible students through the UT Medical Center emergency room at 865-305-9000. If you are having an emergency, you should call 911. If you have any questions about the university's COVID-19 policies and procedures, you can call 865-656-SAFE (7233), Monday–Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.



### **Disabilities Policy**

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Student Disability Services (SDS – <https://sds.utk.edu/>) in Dunford Hall at 865-974-6087 to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations. Students needing accommodations are strongly encouraged to contact SDS and the instructor in advance of the course start date to ensure arrangements are made in advance.

### **Statement of Academic Integrity**

Each student is responsible for their personal integrity in academic life and for adhering to UT’s Honor Statement. The Honor Statement reads: “An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

### **University Civility Statement:**

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: <http://civility.utk.edu/>.

### **Key Campus Resources for Students:**

- [Center for Career Development](#) (Career counseling and resources; HIRE-A-VOL job search system)
- [Course Catalogs](#) (Listing of academic programs, courses, and policies)
- [Hilltopics](#) (Campus and academic policies, procedures and standards of conduct)
- [OIT HelpDesk](#) (865) 974-9900
- [Schedule of Classes/Timetable](#)
- [Student Health Center](#) (visit the site for a list of services)
- [Student Success Center](#) (Academic support resources)
- [Undergraduate Academic Advising](#) (Advising resources, course requirements, and major guides)
- [University Libraries](#) (Access to library resources, databases, course reserves, and services)

## Course Schedule

### Key Dates:

- Monday 1/31: Last day to drop without a “W”
- Monday 4/18: Last day to drop with a “W”
- Tuesday 5/24: Final grades submitted to MyUTK by 8:00 am EST

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>
Week 1 (1/25 – 1/27)	Intro to Archaeology – Methods and Concepts Introduction to UTK’s Archaeology Program	Intro to Archaeology – History of Archaeology
Week 2 (2/1 – 2/3)	CRM and Archaeological Ethics	Dating and Chronology
Week 3 (2/8 – 2/10)	Archaeology of Early Humans	Digital Archaeology and Remote Sensing
Week 4 (2/15 – 2/17)	<b>EXAM 1</b>	Pseudoarchaeology
Week 5 (2/22 – 2/24)	Spread of Modern Humans	Lithics
Week 6 (3/1 – 3/3)	Paleolithic Europe	Paleoethnobotany
Week 7 (3/8 – 3/10)	Development of Agriculture	<b>EXAM 2</b>
Week 8 (3/15 – 3/17)	<b>No Class – Spring Break</b>	<b>No Class – Spring Break</b>
Week 9 (3/22 – 3/24)	Middle East and Africa	Zooarchaeology
Week 10 (3/29-3/31)	<b>No Class – SAA Meeting</b>	<b>No Class – SAA Meeting</b> <b><u>**see Canvas for at-home activity**</u></b>
Week 11 (4/5 – 4/7)	Classical Societies – Greece, Rome, Egypt	Ceramics
Week 12 (4/12 – 4/14)	Mesoamerica and South America	<b>No Class Day</b>
Week 13 (4/19 – 4/21)	Indigenous North America	<b>EXAM 3</b>
Week 14 (4/26 – 4/28)	Contact and Colonialism	Metal and Glass
Week 15 (5/3 – 5/6)	African Diaspora	Isotopes in Archaeology
Week 16 (5/10 – 5/12)	Postbellum and Industrial Archaeology	<b>No Class Day</b>
<b>Final exam will be <u>in person</u> on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:15 – 8:30 pm</b>		